

Volpentest's track record for bringing home the bacon is legendary, and perhaps the main reason his birthday parties attract so many grateful well-wishers.

Just this week he received the 2004 Edward DeLuca lifetime achievement award from the International Economic Development Council in Washington, D.C., recognizing "his unfailing commitment and endless accomplishments," said Steven Budd, council chairman.

Volpentest accepted the accolade with well-rehearsed ado. Dozens of awards, plaques and commendations have come his way in the past four decades. Those not displayed on his office walls are in his home or stored in his garage, he said.

Reaching the century mark is remarkable, but for Volpentest, it is a good deal more.

"The doctor gave me a month to live in 1957," he says, recalling those frightening days when cancer of the jaw nearly took his life.

A lot has happened since then. Volpentest helped found what is now TRIDEC, got deep into state and national politics, and along the way helped bring millions of dollars of development and infrastructure to the Tri-Cities.

Buildings, freeways, research laboratories, bridges, a hotel and a training center for emergency response teams all have the touch of Volpentest on them to some degree.

And he says he's not done yet.

"We need more money for the HAMMER training facility. It's proven itself as a world class facility. We need more classrooms out there," he said.

Volpentest also is fully aware that Hanford's budget hasn't been approved by Congress, and that Battelle needs to have support for the new campus in north Richland. "They (Battelle) are the foundation for the growth of this area," Volpentest said.

The centenarian says he's seen so much growth in the Tri-Cities that he's concerned the region might grow too fast.

"We can have steady growth, but not too many people too fast," he said.

His birthday wish for the Tri-Cities is that the communities would start working together. "Teamwork is the most important word to me," he said, adding that politics today seems to be more unfriendly than it used to be.

Volpentest's birthday wish for himself is "to have a few more years."

He has no secrets to share about how to reach the century milestone.

"How would I know? Got good genes, I guess. Just work hard and stay active," Volpentest said.

Tonight's party isn't all there is for the birthday boy. The Seattle Seahawks have invited him to bring out the game ball for Sunday's home game with the San Francisco 49ers.

"I just hope they don't expect me to run with it," he said with a gleam in his eye.

RECOGNIZING TARIK YAMEEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tarik Yameen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tarik has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the course of the years Tarik has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 33 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Quartermaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and OA Troop Representative. He has earned the 12 Month Camper Award, 100 Nights Camper Award, BSA 50 miler, the Interpreter Strip, and is BSA Lifeguard certified. Tarik is a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is an Ordeal Member of The Order of the Arrow.

Tarik's Eagle Scout project consisted of designing and leading a group of Boy Scouts to build shelving for hand bell boxes, a shelf/moveable cart for the hand bell table with accessories, and also a cart for the sound equipment and miscellaneous items for church services. This was done for his church, Liberty Christian Church.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tarik Yameen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Milford Public Library, which is celebrating 75 years of service to the Milford, Michigan community.

On April 1, 1929, by a vote of 326 to 174, citizens approved the establishment of a free public library by levying a half-mill tax. However, the real beginnings of the Milford Library can be traced back to the 1890s. In March of 1895, the Milford Times reported about the beginnings of a new organization, the "Ladies' Library Association." The goal of this fledgling group was to "establish a library of high-class literature, sufficiently varied to suit the different tastes," and to which the members will have access. Later that month, the Times reported on the success of the organization, which had already attracted 52 members.

The members felt "the need of something in the way of a public library has long been felt, and many hail with delight this project whereby at a small cost they can have access to the best of current literature." The Association imposed a \$1.00 fee on members, which allowed them to draw one book from the collection each week.

Between the dissolution of the Association and the beginnings of the Public Library, the Milford Monday Literary Club sponsored a reading room for 15 years. The Club's collection of material was transferred to the new public library.

Mr. Speaker, for over 75 years the citizens of Milford, Michigan have continued to support the vision of the Ladies' Library Association and the Milford Public Library. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the citizens of Milford, Library Board Members and employees of the Milford Public Library for their outstanding service to the people of Michigan, and wish them well in the next 75 years.

SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COM- MITTEE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee AIPAC. For over fifty years, AIPAC, acknowledging that the security interests of Israel and the United States are intertwined, has worked diligently to strengthen the relationship between Israel and the United States. They have educated members of Congress and the public alike on the issues that Israel faces in its quest to remain a stable, democratic ally to the United States in a part of the world where such nations are scarce. Even in the face of the ongoing unrest in Israel, AIPAC continues to work tirelessly towards an end to terrorism, and an achievement of peace and security in the region.

In recent weeks, our friends at AIPAC have been the subject of allegations that question their dedication to the preservation of national security within the United States. Accusations such as these, which lack substantial credible proof behind them, have no positive effect. These baseless claims make it impossible for AIPAC to defend themselves, and uphold the favorable reputation that they have earned through their efforts. In this case, such charges also threaten to intensify the plague of anti-Semitism that AIPAC has tried to fight throughout its history. It has been my experience that AIPAC and its members care deeply about the collective security interests of the United States and Israel, and I continue to stand by them in their noble efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have cast my votes as follows: "Yes" on rollcall No. 457, "Yes" on rollcall No. 458, "No" on rollcall No. 459, "Yes" on rollcall No. 460, and "No" on rollcall No. 470.

HEALTH PROTECTIONS FOR OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. SHAYS and I have joined to introduce H.R. 5166, The Armed Forces Voluntary Immunization and Health Justice Act of 2004.

In the 104th Congress, Mr. SHAYS and I joined in holding several oversight hearings on the cases of Persian Gulf Syndrome that were affecting our military men and women returning from the first Persian Gulf War. Those